

Claims:

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A computer program embodied in a storage medium for obtaining permission to remove a portable storage device from a host device, comprising:

computer program instructions initiated in response to a manual input at an actuator of a portable storage device that is coupled to a host device,

said computer program instructions for removing, from a host device list of available storage locations, a computer readable storage medium that is intrinsic to the portable storage device.

2. The computer program of claim 1 wherein the computer program instructions comprise an interrupt command directed to an operating system of said host device.

3. The computer program of claim 1 wherein the storage medium in which the computer program is embodied comprises said intrinsic computer readable storage medium of said portable storage device.

4. The computer program of claim 1 wherein said computer program instructions further comprise instructions to control an indication of at least one state at an indicator of said portable storage device, the at least one state selected from the group: normal-inactive, normal-active, error, and ready-to-be-removed.

5. A portable storage device comprising:
- a body;
 - an intrinsic computer readable storage medium within said body;
 - a connector for removably coupling to a host device;
 - a manual actuator; and
 - an indicator for indicating, following actuation of said actuator, that said portable storage device may be safely removed from a host device to which it is coupled.
6. A portable storage device as set forth in claim 5, wherein said manual actuator is for requesting that a host device grant permission to remove said portable storage device, and said indicator indicates, in response to said host device granting said permission, that said portable storage device may be removed from said host device without loss of data and without corruption of data.
7. A portable storage device as set forth in claim 5, wherein said indicator comprises at least one of a visual indicator, an aural indicator and a tactile indicator.
8. The portable storage device of claim 5 further comprising a micro controller coupled between said actuator and said connector.
9. The portable storage device of claim 8 wherein said microcontroller transfers a signal toward

said connector in response to actuation of said manual actuator.

10. The portable storage device of claim 9 wherein said signal comprises an interrupt command stored in said intrinsic computer readable storage medium of said portable storage device.

11. The portable storage device of claim 9 wherein said signal comprises a request to remove said portable storage device from a list of devices available to a host device to which it may be coupled.

12. The portable storage device of claim 9 wherein said signal comprises a request for an operating system of a host device to execute an interrupt command that may be stored within said host device.

13. The portable storage device of claim 5 wherein said indicator uniquely indicates at least three states when said portable storage device is coupled to a host device, said three states comprising:

a normal inactive state whereby no transfer of computer instructions is ongoing between said portable storage device and said host device;

a normal active state whereby a transfer of computer instructions is ongoing between said portable storage device and said host device; and

a ready-to-be-removed state whereby, following actuation of said actuator, the portable storage device may be removed from the host device to which it is coupled without loss or corruption of data.

14. The portable storage device of claim 13 wherein said indicator indicates said ready-to-be-removed state by a lack of illumination, and indicates each of said normal inactive state and said normal active state by illumination.

15. A system for transferring a file embodied on a computer storage medium comprising a host device and a portable storage device,

said host device comprising a host storage medium, a host operating system of computer instructions, and a receptacle for receiving a connector,

said portable storage device comprising:

a body;

a connector for mating with said receptacle;

an intrinsic computer readable storage medium within said body;

a manual actuator for initiating computer instructions to remove said portable storage device from said host device; and

an indicator for indicating to a user at least that said portable storage device may be removed from said host computer following actuation of said actuator without loss of data and without corruption of data.

16. The system of claim 15 wherein said computer instructions comprise an interrupt command.

17. The system of claim 16 wherein said interrupt command is stored within said intrinsic computer readable storage medium of said portable storage device.

18. A system as set forth in claim 15, wherein said indicator comprises at least one of a visual indicator, an aural indicator and a tactile indicator.

19. A system as set forth in claim 15, wherein said computer instructions comprise a request for permission of the host device to allow removal the portable device, and the indicator so indicates upon the host computer granting said request.

20. A system as set forth in claim 15 wherein a single user action causes said host operating system to remove said intrinsic computer readable storage medium of said portable storage device from a list of available storage media, said single user action consisting of actuating said manual actuator.